

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A method of transporting and installing a modular milking parlor comprising:

(a) providing a modular milking parlor having a rigid milking parlor frame including a rectangular frame base including lateral and longitudinal members joined together to define a front side and a back side of the milking parlor, and a plurality of milking stations mounted in a row to the milking parlor frame above the frame base;

(b) attaching wheeled carriages to the frame of the modular milking parlor, each wheeled carriage having a carriage body and a caster wheel that can be raised or lowered with respect to the carriage body, the carriages being attached to the modular milking parlor with the frame base resting on the ground;

(c) raising the modular milking parlor off of the ground by advancing the wheels of each carriage away from the carriage body to lift the carriage body and the frame of the milking parlor attached thereto;

(d) rolling the modular milking parlor as supported by the wheels of the carriages over at least part of the transport of the modular milking parlor to a site where the modular milking parlor is to be installed; and

(e) at the site at which the modular milking parlor is to be installed, withdrawing the wheels of the carriages to drop the modular milking parlor down until the frame base rests on the surface of the site and then removing the carriages from the frame of the modular milking parlor.

2. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 including the further step of depositing a layer of concrete over and covering the frame base of the modular milking parlor after it is positioned at the installation site.

3. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 wherein the modular milking parlor supported by the wheels of the carriage is rolled from a point of assembly of the modular milking parlor to a flatbed truck, including the steps of loading the modular milking parlor with the carriages attached thereto onto the truck, transporting the modular milking parlor on the truck to a position near the site at which the modular milking parlor is to be installed, unloading the modular milking parlor from the truck and rolling the modular milking parlor supported by the wheels of the carriages to the site at which the modular milking parlor is to be installed.

4. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 3 further including adjusting the height of the wheels of the carriages as the modular milking parlor is rolled from the truck to the point of installation to accommodate changes in the height of the terrain over which the modular milking parlor is being rolled.

5. (Withdrawn) A method of installing a modular milking parlor comprising:

(a) providing a modular milking parlor having a rigid milking parlor frame including a rectangular frame base and a plurality of milking stations mounted in a row to the milking parlor frame above the frame base;

(b) positioning the modular milking parlor at the site at which it is to be installed with the frame base resting on a surface at the position at which the modular milking parlor is to be installed; and

(c) depositing a layer of concrete over the frame base to cover and enclose the frame base.

6. (Withdrawn) A wheeled carriage suited for transporting a modular milking parlor, comprising:

(a) a carriage body;

(b) a plurality of caster wheels;

(c) means for adjustably mounting the wheels to the carriage body so that the wheels can be moved up and down with respect to the carriage body; and

(d) means for releasably connecting the carriage body to a structural member.

7. (Withdrawn) The wheeled carriage of Claim 6 wherein the means for adjustably mounting the wheels to the carriage body includes a hand operated jack connected to each wheel.

8. (Withdrawn) The wheeled carriage of Claim 6 wherein the means for releasably connecting the carriage body to a structural member includes a downwardly extending section of the carriage body with a slot therein formed to fit over an upright web of a structural member, and a bolt threaded through openings in walls of the downwardly extending section at the slot in the section such that the bolt can be passed through an opening in an upright web of a structural member.

9. (Withdrawn) The wheeled carriage of Claim 6 wherein the means for adjustably mounting the wheels to the carriage body includes an air pressure operated piston-cylinder connected to each wheel.

10. (Withdrawn) The wheeled carriage of Claim 9 further including a valve connected to each piston-cylinder and operable to supply air under pressure in one valve position and to release air in the piston-cylinder in another position.

11. (Previously Presented) A modular milking parlor comprising:

(a) a rigid milking parlor from comprising:

(1) a rectangular frame base including lateral and longitudinal members joined together to define a front side and back side of the modular parlor,

(2) a plurality of upright members attached to and extending upwardly from the frame base,

(3) at least one longitudinal support member attached to upright support members and extending along the front side of the modular parlor above the frame base, and at least one lateral support member extending from an upright member positioned at the back side of the modular parlor and connected to the longitudinal support member to brace the longitudinal support member;

(b) a plurality of milking stations mounted in a row to the milking parlor frame between the frame base and the longitudinal support member at the front side of the modular parlor, further including a plurality of wheeled carriages connected to the milking parlor frame, each carriage having a carriage body and means for adjustably mounting detachable wheels to the carriage body so that the wheels can be moved up and down with respect to the carriage body.

12. (Previously Presented) A mobile modular milking parlor comprising:

(a) a rigid milking parlor frame including a rectangular frame base including lateral and longitudinal members joined together to define a front side and back side of the modular parlor;

(b) a plurality of milking stations mounted in a row to the milking parlor frame above the frame base at the front side of the modular parlor; and

(c) a plurality of wheeled carriages connected to the milking parlor frame, each carriage having a carriage body and means for adjustably mounting detachable wheels to the carriage body so that the wheels can be moved up and down with respect to the carriage body.

13. (Previously Presented) The mobile modular milking parlor of Claim 12 wherein at least some of the lateral and longitudinal members of the frame base are formed of structural steel T-beams having a center web extending upwardly from a base.

14. (Previously Presented) The mobile modular milking parlor of Claim 13 including one or more holes in the upright webs of the T-beams of the frame base by which the frame may be connected to the wheeled carriages and supported for transport of the modular parlor.

15. (Previously Presented) The mobile modular milking parlor of Claim 12 wherein the frame base includes a front longitudinal member and a back longitudinal member that are parallel to each other, and wherein a plurality of lateral members extend between and are attached to the front and back longitudinal members.

16. (Previously Presented) The modular milking parlor of Claim 12 wherein each milking station contains an automatic teat cup cluster detacher with a support arm for supporting a teat cup cluster that has been removed from a cow.

17. (Previously Presented) The modular milking parlor of Claim 12 including groups of milk hoses, vacuum lines, and control lines extending from each of the milking stations together to a longitudinal end of the modular milking parlor.